

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and  
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 118—Traffic Stops Statistics Study Act**

**H.R. 2843—Aviation Medical Assistance Act**

**H.R. 3211—Codifying Arlington Cemetery Burial Requirements**

**H.R. 3213—Clarifying Enforcement of Veterans' Employment Rights**

**H.R. 3412—Small Business Investment Company Technical Corrections Act**

**H.R. 3226—Conveying National Forest Lands in the Commonwealth of  
Virginia**

**H.R. 3096—Correcting a Provision Relating to Termination of Benefits for  
Convicted Persons**



## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following six bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 118—Traffic Stops Statistics Study Act** aims to increase police awareness of the problem of targeting minorities for car searches and reduce the number of discriminatory traffic stops. The bill requires the Attorney General to acquire and publish an annual summary of data about all stops for routine traffic violations by law enforcement officers. The data must include the age and race or ethnicity of the individual stopped, the number of individuals in the vehicle at the time of the stop, and the alleged traffic infractions committed by the driver of the vehicle. Furthermore, any reasons for subsequent searches and information pertaining to contraband recovered in such searches must also be included in the report. Special significance must be given in a police report if the traffic stop

and search yields any evidence that may be beneficial to the interdiction of drugs and the operations of drug trafficking. Finally, any warnings or citations issued as a result of the search must be reported. The data included in these reports may not be used for purposes other than research or statistics, and the identity of any individuals or law enforcement officers involved must not be revealed. Additionally, the bill prohibits the use of data acquired by the study in any legal or administrative proceeding to establish an inference of discrimination. The bill was introduced by Mr. Conyers and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote.

**H.R. 2843—Aviation Medical Assistance Act** makes a number of changes regarding emergency medical equipment that is required on commercial aircraft. Specifically, the bill (1) directs the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator to reevaluate regulations (within one year of enactment) regarding the equipment that is required for aircraft medical kits and the training required of flight attendants in the use of such equipment; (2) requires major air carriers to report their on-board medical incidents to the FAA on a quarterly basis during the one-year reevaluation period; (3) requires the FAA Administrator to decide whether to require automatic external defibrillators on commercial aircraft and at airports within 120 days of the conclusion of the one-year reevaluation period; (4) protects an airline against liability for the actions of a “good Samaritan” passenger who provides assistance in an in-flight emergency if the airline believes that the passenger is a medically qualified individual; and (5) protects a “good Samaritan” passenger against liability for providing assistance in an in-flight medical emergency unless the person, while rendering such assistance, is guilty of gross negligence or willful misconduct. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Duncan; the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**H.R. 3211—Codifying Arlington Cemetery Burial Requirements** strengthens existing burial eligibility requirements and codifies much of the existing Army burial regulations at Arlington National Cemetery. The bill eliminates automatic eligibility for members of Congress, cabinet officers, and ambassadors who do not otherwise meet eligibility requirements. Current regulations allow automatic burial for these senior government officials who have only a few years of military experience, a distinct advantage over all other veterans. In addition, the legislation (1) allows certain close family members of eligible veterans to be buried in the same grave without the need for a waiver; (2) codifies existing regulations that allow the cremated remains of any veteran with an honorable discharge to be interred in the Arlington Cemetery Columbarium; and (3) clarifies that only memorials honoring military service may be placed at Arlington in the future. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Stump; the Veterans’ Affairs Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**H.R. 3213—Clarifying the Enforcement of Veterans’ Employment Rights** clarifies the enforcement of veterans’ employment and reemployment rights regarding state employers and extends such rights to veterans employed abroad by U.S. companies. Specifically, the bill makes certain procedural changes to the enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) in response to a 1996 Supreme Court decision which held that the Eleventh Amendment precluded congressionally authorized suits by private parties against nonconsenting states. In order to ensure states’ continuing adherence to the rights and protections afforded employees under USERRA and in response to the Court’s decision, the bill substitutes the United States for an individual veteran as the plaintiff in enforcement actions in cases where the Attorney General believes that a state has not complied with USERRA law. In addition, the bill:

- \* applies USERRA law to U.S. employers in foreign countries. The bill allows an exception when employer compliance would violate the law of the foreign country in which the workplace is located;
- \* requires direct payment to the veteran of any claim compensation which is considered lost wages, benefits, or liquidated damages; and
- \* clarifies that the Merit Systems Protection Board has jurisdiction to hear complaints brought by federal employees without regard to when the complaint was filed.

CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Quinn; the Veterans' Affairs Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**H.R. 3412—Small Business Investment Company Technical Corrections Act** makes a number of technical corrections to the 1958 Small Business Investment Act to improve the flexibility of the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program and improve small business access to this program. Specifically, the bill:

- \* eliminates a provision in current law that reserves funds for smaller SBICs (companies which have less than \$20 million in private capital) until the last quarter of the fiscal year;
- \* modifies a test to determine the eligibility of small businesses for SBIC financing. Many small businesses face disparate treatment under the current income test and are declared ineligible for financing they might otherwise receive; and
- \* provides the SBA with greater flexibility when issuing trust certificates to finance the SBIC program's investments in small businesses. Current law requires certificates to be issued every six months or more frequently (compared with the 12-month requirement in the bill).

CBO estimates that enactment will not have a significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Talent; the Small Business Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**H.R. 3226—Conveying National Forest Lands in the Commonwealth of Virginia** authorizes the Agriculture Secretary to convey 23 tracts of land and administrative sites in the George Washington and Jefferson national forests to the Commonwealth of Virginia in exchange for land or cash. The bill requires that all sales or exchanges represent the fair market value of the property. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was introduced by Mr. Goodlatte and was not considered by any committee.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #7, March 20, 1998.



## H.R. 3096—Correcting a Provision Relating to Termination of Benefits for Convicted Persons

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 3096 under the “corrections day” procedure after it completes consideration of the scheduled suspensions. It is debatable for one hour, may be amended only by the chairman of the committee of jurisdiction, and requires a three-fifths majority vote for passage. House rules provide for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 3096 amends the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA) to correct an earlier drafting error. In 1993, Congress made a legislative change to the FECA statute in an attempt to eliminate fraud and abuse in the federal workers’ compensation program. A new section was added to the FECA code to require that an individual’s workers’ compensation benefits be terminated if the worker has been convicted of fraud in trying to obtain such benefits. However, when the addition to the FECA code was drafted, an error occurred in the wording of how workers’ compensation benefits would be terminated for workers guilty of fraud. Changing this wording error will bring the FECA code in line with the U.S. criminal code pertaining to workers’ compensation fraud. The bill was introduced by Mr. Greenwood and was reported by the Education and Workforce Committee by voice vote.

**Views:** The Republican Leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #7, March 20, 1998.




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Brian Fortune: *Editor*

S. Kevin Washington:  
*Senior Legislative Analyst*

Melissa Decker, Jimmy Papadimitriou,  
Kevin Smith: *Legislative Analysts*



Legislative  
Digest

# House REPUBLICAN Conference Amendment Alert!

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Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

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John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: \_\_\_\_\_ Bill #: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the amendment: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): \_\_\_\_\_

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*Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.*

1013 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 226-2302